

the Vietnam conflict raged. Representative JOHNSON saw some of the worst. He has been quoted as saying, "If hell is here on earth, it is located on an oddly shaped city block in downtown Hanoi, Vietnam."

Isolation, starvation, and torture were almost certainly not what Representative JOHNSON envisioned as he participated in ROTC in college and moved on to a military career as an Air Force fighter pilot. Yet when his F-4 was shot down only two months into his second tour of duty in Vietnam, Representative JOHNSON took everything that was handed to him all the while heroically maintaining his pride in the country he serves to this day.

He was labeled a diehard by his guards and banished to solitary confinement for months at a time. A patriot throughout, Representative JOHNSON returned home an continued his military service until his retirement in 1979. He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1991, where he has repeatedly shown his dedication to responsible fiscal policy, family values, and America's patriotic heritage.

Since his return from Vietnam, Representative JOHNSON has received many awards in recognition of his service to his country, including two Silver Stars, two Purple Hearts, two Legions of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, and one Bronze Star with Valor, among others.

Representative JOHNSON, our tribute today is not so prestigious an award. Yet it is meant to signify the gratefulness and respect of your colleagues for the service you have done your country and continue to do as a Member of this House. Representative JOHNSON, thank you. Your enduring will and patriotism in the face of unimaginable adversity is truly exemplary.

HONORING THE WHITTIER CITY
SCHOOL DISTRICT ON THE OCCA-
SION OF ITS CENTENNIAL CELE-
BRATION OF EDUCATING
WHITTIER'S CHILDREN

HON. ESTEBAN EDWARD TORRES

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of the 100th Anniversary of the Whittier City School District. On Friday, February 20, 1998, students, teachers, administrators, and friends and family of the Whittier City School District will come together at a special Centennial Celebration at the Whittier Community Center, in Whittier, California, to commemorate 100 years of dedication to educating Whittier's children.

The rich history of the Whittier City School District reflects the history of the State of California and of our nation. Established on February 21, 1998, the newly formed district experienced the growth boom of the west. In its first 20 years, coinciding with the incorporation of the City of Whittier, school enrollment doubled from 200 to 400 pupils. It again doubled during World War I. By 1917, the area's growing oil industry began producing over a million barrels per year. With this booming industry, new jobs and population growth followed. During this same period, to accommodate the increase in student enrollment, four new schools were built: John Muir Junior High; Jonathan

Bailey Elementary; Longfellow Elementary; and Lydia Jackson Elementary.

Growth slowed during the Great Depression. Despite the stagnant economy, in the latter part of the Depression, the District built the Lou Harry Hoover School. Following World War II, phenomenal growth in the district prompted the construction and annexation of 12 schools. During the post World War II era, a total of 11,400 students graduated through the Whittier City School District. After the Korean Conflict, total school enrollment had grown to 1,700 pupils. For the last 40 years, the district has experienced steady growth. During the Vietnam Conflict years, the North Whittier School, later renamed Wallen Andrews Elementary, was built to accommodate students coming from the newly built tract homes along Workman Mill Road, north of the City of Whittier.

Currently there are 13 schools in the Whittier City School District: Wallen Andrews; Lou Henry Hoover; Lydia Jackson; Abraham Lincoln; Longfellow; Mill; Orange Grove; Daniel Phelan; Christian Sorensen; George Washington; West Whittier; Walter Dexter Intermediate and Katherine Edwards Intermediate. The Whittier City School District Board of Education, consisting of School Board President Brigitta Weger, Vice President Dr. Owen Newcomer, Clerk Dr. James Albanese, and Boardmembers Javier Gonzalez, and John Peel, along with Superintendent Dr. Carmella Franco, are dedicated to the District's motto "Educating Children . . . Our Only Business." With the arrival of the Centennial Celebration, student enrollment is near 7,000 and the Whittier City School District estimates, after the conclusion of the current academic year, a total of 43,700 students will have graduated from its schools during the past 100 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me extending our congratulations and appreciation to the friends and family of the Whittier City School District on its 100th Anniversary and for its century of exemplary dedication to providing top quality education for our youth.

CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVER-
SARY OF LITHUANIAN INDE-
PENDENCE

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th anniversary of the declaration of Lithuanian Independence.

For nearly 55 years, Lithuania was occupied by Soviet military forces. But in the past five years, the people of Lithuania have been able to finally enjoy and celebrate the freedoms and privileges of an independent nation.

The United States and Lithuania have now formed a significant partnership between our leaders, our governments, and our people. We have close trade relations with Lithuania. We are mutually committed to the security of the Baltic region.

With free and fair elections recently completed, Lithuania has established a commitment to democracy and pluralism. I believe we can say with great confidence that Lithuania is becoming a full partner in the effort to build

democracy and promote freedom around the world.

I commend the Lithuanian-American community for their persistence and hope through the many challenging decades. The 80th anniversary of Lithuanian independence will be celebrated by the Lithuanian-American community in Southeast Michigan on Sunday, February 8, at the Lithuanian Cultural Center in Southfield.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring Lithuania's independence.

TRIBUTE TO BERNARD F. EICHOLZ

HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding and tireless contributions of a distinguished Ohioan, Bernard F. Eicholz, who recently retired from the Certified Development Company (CDC) of Warren County, Inc.

From 1981 to 1997, Bernie served as founder and President of the CDC. The CDC is a vital tool for small business owners throughout Warren County. When he founded the CDC, few could have foreseen the growth and development the area would experience. But Warren County has experienced record-breaking economic growth, and Bernie has been a driving force behind it. During Bernie's service, the CDC has helped small businesses to create or retain nearly 2,000 full-time jobs in Warren County.

Bernie has devoted his entire life to public service. Prior to founding the CDC, he served as Mayor of Covington, Kentucky; City Manager of Franklin, Ohio; Director of Economic Development for Warren County, Ohio; and Director of Economic Development for Springboro, Ohio. He has also served as a consultant to community leaders on issues ranging from annexations to charters.

Bernie has given generously of his time and talent and we are grateful for his many years of service and leadership. His leadership in the business community and Warren County as a whole have helped to transform the region. All of us in southwest Ohio congratulate him on his retirement and recognize him for his many accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO DONALD SHAPIRO

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 12, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to Donald L. Shapiro in honor of the dedication of his portrait at the Harvard Club of New York City. He is a man of character, ambition, and faith.

Few Americans have been as successful as Donald Shapiro. A graduate of Harvard College and the Harvard Graduate School of Business, Donald Shapiro has served as Vice President of Real Estate for Levitt & Sons, and subsequently as Executive Vice President of Peerage Properties. He was also President of the Roosevelt Field Shopping Center on Long Island.